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NATIONALIST CHINA - US: Taipei's decision to deport an American missionary appears calculated to embarrass Washington.

An aide to Vice Premier Chiang Ching-kuo informed the US ambassador on 2 March that the action was being taken because of the missionary's alleged contacts with Taiwanese dissidents and for his advocacy of sabotage against the Nationalist government. Apart from any validity there may be in the charges, the deportation is in line with earlier evidence that Taipei, which has become increasingly wary of Washington's China policy, is embarked on a campaign of harassment against the US. In addition, Taipei's security service has been especially nervous about Taiwanese dissident activities during the past year. The Nationalists have taken a more hard-line position on this case than on previous cases involving US contacts with Taiwanese dissidents.

The aide left open the possibility that other Americans involved in activities with the Taiwanese dissidents would be similarly treated or perhaps even prosecuted. He also raised the question of reported US Embassy involvement with the dissidents. Without being specific, the aide warned that public knowledge of such "subversive activities" could cause "serious consequences," and added that the Nationalist government does not want the situation to develop in a way that would affect its good relations with the US.

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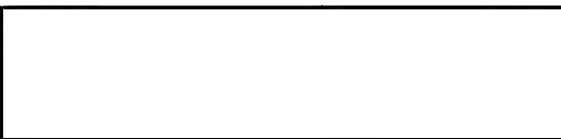
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